

Program 026

SPI - Special Education**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority	1.5	876,474	427,113	1,303,587
Total Maintenance Level	1.5	925,238	432,758	1,357,996
Difference		48,764	5,645	54,409
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	5.6%	1.3%	4.2%
Performance Changes				
Special Education Safety Net		18,940	2,953	21,893
Pension Gain Sharing #		(11,972)	(132)	(12,104)
Projected Unit Credit - OSA #		(24,008)	(264)	(24,272)
Special Education Funding		30,747		30,747
Subtotal		13,707	2,557	16,264
Total Proposed Budget	1.5	938,945	435,315	1,374,260
Difference		62,471	8,202	70,673
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	7.1%	1.9%	5.4%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Special Education	1.5	938,945	435,315	1,374,260
Total Proposed Budget	1.5	938,945	435,315	1,374,260

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS**Special Education Safety Net**

Funding for the special education safety net is increased to reflect the net impact of two rule changes. The application threshold for individual high cost students, based on services provided in their individual education plan or IEP, is increased to match the new federal definition for high cost. In addition, the current maintenance of effort requirement is eliminated in the school district application form documenting financial need. This change will provide greater equity among districts and allow more districts to access the safety net grant process. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal)

Pension Gain Sharing #

Prefunding for Pension Gain Sharing is removed from the budget.

Projected Unit Credit - OSA #

This item reflects moving the Public Employees' Retirement System, the Teachers' Retirement System, and the School Employees' Retirement System from the aggregate actuarial method to the projected unit credit method, using assumptions and methods provided by the Office of the State Actuary.

Special Education Funding

School districts across the state have been voicing concerns over the resources available to serve special education students. State funding provided for special education students is increased by \$145 per student.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 EDUCATION

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Special Education

State and federal law requires Washington public schools to provide appropriate educational programs to over 120,000 students with disabilities. School districts and educational service districts use state and federal funds to provide supplemental services through the special education program. Schools employ over 12,000 full-time equivalent district staff in special education statewide. This program is defined as basic education. In addition, this activity provides for statewide technical assistance for school districts receiving federal grants related to special educational programs.